



NEWS RELEASE

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NORFOLK HUBZone FIRM WINS MAJOR CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT

WASHINGTON –The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Norfolk hosted a ground-breaking ceremony to celebrate the award of one of the largest HUBZone contracts since the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) implemented the program in March 1999, SBA Administrator Aida Alvarez announced today.

The Army awarded the \$4.3 million HUBZone construction contract to ARRIBA Corporation, of Norfolk, Virginia to construct a 25,000-square-foot training center. This procurement is the largest since the congressionally mandated program began full operation in March, 1999.

“The HUBZone program was put in place to promote prosperity in distressed communities, create jobs and provide more contracting opportunities,” said SBA Administrator Aida Alvarez. **“I’m pleased to announce that after only one year of operation, this program is well on its way to achieving those goals. We will continue to strive to keep those doors of opportunity open.”**

The HUBZone Empowerment Contracting program refers to Historically Underutilized Business Zones. For a firm to be certified as a HUBZone concern, its principal office must be located in a HUBZone and at least 35 percent of its employees must reside in a HUBZone. Additionally, the firm must be completely owned and controlled by U.S. citizens. Participants in the HUBZone program can receive contracts through competition limited to qualified HUBZone firms or on a sole-source basis. HUBZone firms are also given a price preference in bidding during full and open competition over non-HUBZone large firms.

There are now more than 1,700 small businesses that have secured HUBZone certification nationwide.

Nationally, HUBZones are located in more than 7,000 urban census tracts, in 900 rural counties, and on every federally recognized Native American reservation.

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